




Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: August 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

City Annual Allocation of Volume Cap

The City of Peoria each year receives from the State of Illinois an allocation of Private Activity Bonds, also known as Volume Cap. The amount of allocation is calculated by multiplying \$95 by the population of the City of Peoria as listed in the *State of Illinois Guidelines and Procedures for the Allocation of Private Activity Bonding Authority*. In 2011, the City's allocation is \$10,974,400. Private Activity Bonds are exempt from federal income tax once they are in the hand of the holders, thus lowering the cost of capital to the borrower. Another benefit of the Bonds is long term financing, usually more than 20 years. Projects that may be eligible to use Private Activity Bonds are: industrial, manufacturing, and low or moderate income housing projects. While City staff works with developers and businesses throughout the year to identify projects that qualify for Private Activity Bonds, staff would invite recipients of the *Issues Update* to contact Susan Schlupp, Economic Development Office at 494-8644 or sschlupp@ci.epeoria.il.us if they are aware of businesses who would like to know more about these Bonds.

Follow-Up on FEMA Grant

During the August 9, 2011, City Council meeting, I neglected to thank our Office of Emergency Management Senior Planner Dwain Deppolder for his hard work in attaining the \$207,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the City of Peoria and the Peoria Fire Department. Due to his efforts we will be able to improve our water rescue capabilities, enhance our safety measures for our rescue divers, and save Community Investment Plan funding. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Bass Pro Shop for their generous donation of the two (2) side sonar packages for our rescue boat.

Growth Cell Report Data

During the July 12, 2011 City Council Meeting, Council expressed interest in reviewing the data used in the Growth Cell Report. Find attached a spreadsheet which outlines all calculations included in the report. In addition, a breakdown of capital investment is also included. **(Electronic Copies Only)**

Mowing Contract for Boulevards and Rights-of-Way

On July 8, 2011, the contract with Outdoor Care of Illinois was terminated because of non-performance. Alternatively, Staff requested services from the second-low bidder on July 11, 2011. The alternate contractor, C.G.M., began mowing service on July 14, 2011. In accepting the 2nd low bid for mowing services, Staff expects C.G.M. to complete the job within the amount previously approved by City Council.

Redistricting

Because the Voting Rights Act settlement is the background to any discussion concerning Peoria's form of government, a copy of the Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree are attached hereto. Also, there were some questions concerning deadlines. The last day for a public body to adopt a resolution to put a public question on the March Primary Ballot is January 3, 2012. The deadline which redistricting must be accomplished is thirty days before the filing period commences before the next District Council election, or November 1, 2012. **(Electronic Copy only)**

Neighborhood Leadership Awards Banquet

The 2011 Neighborhood Leadership Awards Banquet will be held on October 13th at the newly renovated Four Points by Sheraton, Downtown Peoria. This year's theme selected by the Banquet Planning Committee is:

Neighborhoods! Our Stars!

After dinner and music, Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich will give the keynote presentation. A ceremony will follow during which six neighborhood activists will receive awards for service to their neighborhoods. The total cost for one table of eight members of a registered neighborhood association is **\$50**. Persons who are not representing a registered neighborhood association can reserve a seat for **\$25**.

Sponsor opportunities are available:

GOLD STAR SPONSOR- Gold Star Sponsors contribute \$200 or more.

SILVER STAR SPONSOR- Silver Star Sponsors contribute \$100 or more.

BRONZE STAR SPONSOR- Bronze Star Sponsors contribute \$50 or more.

(See attached table reservation form, individual reservation form, and award nomination form.)

(Electronic Copies Only)

Inspections Department / Temporary Board-Up

The City of Peoria Police, Fire, and Inspections Departments order the temporary boarding of structures that have open windows, doors, and/or other openings exposing the interior of the building to the elements or making the building accessible by trespassers.

"Sec. 5-408. Nuisance structures." of the *Code of the City of Peoria* specifies that openings to be temporarily boarded shall be covered completely from the exterior with a minimum of one-half-inch thick exterior grade plywood secured with screws.

Once the temporary boarding is ordered, a letter is mailed informing the owner that “Sec. 5-409. Limitations on temporary board-ups.” of the City ordinance limits the duration of a temporary board-up to 180 days, and the owner of the property will be billed for the temporary board-up.

The intent of this ordinance is for the owner to replace the boarded openings with original glazing material as well as encourage occupancy of vacant structures. One option to replacing the opening with glazing material on vacant structures or openings that are not required for light, ventilation, or emergency egress on occupied structures is to fill in the opening permanently with exterior grade siding, masonry, or other exterior approved materials, which may require the opening to be filled in with framing and sheathing. This additional work exceeds the intent, scope and our authority of temporary boarding, and it would be cost prohibitive.

Failure to comply with the 180-day board-up limitation by not removing the plywood or not requesting an extension can result in the issuance of citations.